

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

November 18, 2008

AMENDMENT TO ITEM 23

Juvenile court schools play a pivotal role in the education of the most at-risk youth in the State. Juvenile court schools provide educational services to students placed by the courts in juvenile halls, juvenile homes, day centers, camps, regional community education centers or group homes. These students are under the authority of the juvenile court and have been detained and are awaiting judicial dispensation or have been adjudicated and have been incarcerated by the court.

For many of these students, the juvenile court schools will be their final opportunity to veer away from further criminal behavior and to return to a more promising future through education and good citizenship. However, in spite of the critical need for these schools, the State's current funding system places many local programs in jeopardy. Unfortunately, the current funding system fails to acknowledge the extraordinary operational constraints of juvenile court schools, the needs of this unique population and the inadequacy of the revenue limit-based funding model.

The current funding system fails to take into consideration the practical realities of providing services to these students, ranging from the unpredictability of their

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enrollment and attendance to their vastly different educational needs including a higher percentage of special education needs.

In summary, as a result of the failure of the current funding system to account for these cost inflating factors, county offices of education (COE) are facing growing financial strains in maintaining their juvenile court schools. In order to address the deficiencies of the current juvenile court school funding system, the State should establish a court school funding model that stabilizes COE funding by moving away from an Average Daily Attendance (ADA) only funding model.

The California County Superintendents' Educational Services Association (CCSESA) is currently working on a proposal that would modify the current funding formula for juvenile schools to one that is based on a bed-unit enhancement ADA model. This model recognizes the full complement of teaching staff, support staff, materials and supplies, and administrative overhead that is needed to offer instruction to a complement of students residing at a juvenile hall or other court school setting. The County needs to support this proposal and work with our Legislature and CCSESA to ensure its adoption. Modifying the current funding formula will create enhance the quality of care and education the youths that attend juvenile courts receive.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the County's State Agenda for the 2009-10 Legislative Session be amended to include a provision that will support the California County Superintendents' Educational Services Association proposal to modify the current funding formula for juvenile court schools to one that is based on a bed-unit enhancement ADA model.